

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) Issues Workshop
Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan Update
Osceola County Agricultural Extension Office
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744
Conference Room #1
Thursday, September 29, 2005
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Attending

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Al Aikens | John Hayford | Wes Quinton |
| Conswelle Bennett | Joan Herrick | Teresa Remudo-Fries |
| Debbie Bradshaw | Dale Jenkins | Pam Reynolds |
| Duke Clem | Linda Jennings | Herb Stangland |
| Tony Cotter | David MacIntyre | Todd Swingle |
| Roberto Denis | Tamera McBride | Brian Wheeler |
| Chuck Drake | Linda McCarthy | James Yallaly |
| Chris Ferraro | Ted McKim | |
| Eleanor Foerste | Nanette Moroni | |

Staff:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Missie Barletto | John Mulliken | Chris Sweazy |
| Bill Graf | Rick Smith | |

1. Welcome and Introductions by Chris Sweazy, Kissimmee Basin Project Manager, Planning and Resource Evaluation.

Mr. Sweazy welcomed everyone and said it has been approximately one year since the last meeting. The status of the water supply planning efforts and the District's Alternative Water Supply (AWS) process will be discussed today and now is the time to get the momentum going.

2. Introductions by John Mulliken, Division Director, Planning and Resource Evaluation.

Mr. Mulliken mentioned that Tom Genovese, Director, Orlando Service Center and Governing Board Member Harkley Thorton were unable to attend. John provided background information on the Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan update process.

Mr. Mulliken introduced SFWMD staff and stated their affiliation. All attendees stated their name and affiliation.

3. Regional Water Supply Plan Update Process by John Mulliken.





Mr. Mulliken presented information on the proposed schedule for updating on all four water supply plans. This new schedule is due, in part, to recent legislative changes to the state water law for plan completion and content. Information was given regarding Senate Bill 444 and the new role of water supply plans will plan in linking land and water for local governments.

Modifications to the planning process are being made to update it and streamline plan formulation. One of the proposed changes is that no new groundwater modeling will be included in the 2005 plan update. Completion of all four plan updates is expected to occur by July 2006.

The impact to communities of the 2005 legislation was explained. There will be a stronger link between the water supply plan and local government's comprehensive plans. The project list of alternative water supply projects for FY06 through FY25 will be included as part of the plan updates. The alternative supply projects listed in plans become eligible for funding consideration. There is a separate annual funding process for alternative water projects.

Information on the local government plan linkage was provided. Now is the time for teamwork between the agencies and SFWMD. The required plan elements were reviewed. The proposed approach is to resume public workshops and to brief the Water Resources Advisory Commission monthly.

Key milestones were listed as:

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|  Regional plan workshops: | Sept – Dec. 05 |
|  Draft project lists (FY06-25): | Jan. 06 |
|  Document review workshops: | Feb-Apr. 06 |
|  Governing Board approval: | July 2006 |

Question and Answer Session:

Question regarding the response required by local governments to the plans over the years. Mr. Mulliken said local governments may want to investigate what is of general interest to them and five year sections may be feasible. Realistic concepts need to be reviewed.

The new legislation – does it speed up the USACOE evaluation of the restoration of the Everglades? There is no correlation between the water supply plans and the federal process. Mr. Sweazy said the timelines proposed for completion of the water supply plan are aggressive and local cooperation will be essential.

When will the population forecasts be finalized? Mr. Sweazy indicated that population and water use estimated for the Kissimmee planning area are essentially complete and promised to send out the information within the next two weeks for final utility review. The issue will return in the November meeting for discussion.

Since the updates to the plans will be complete by July 2006, when will projects be completed that involve agricultural projects? Mr. Mulliken provided information on the agricultural users in the water supply plan area. Outreach will be targeted for some communities now that the laws have changed, and there will be additional focus on identifying agricultural projects. Will an explanation of the policy be written in the plan? Mr. Mulliken said it would be in the plan. The annual process will be described in the plan.

4. Revised Demand Projections by Chris Sweazy, Kissimmee Basin Project Manager, Planning and Resource Evaluation.

Mr. Sweazy presented information on updated demand projections since it has been such a long time since the last meeting. A recap of previous estimates and updates of population and raw water demands was provided.

Information on the demand categories, agricultural crop categories, acreage projections and agricultural acreage changes were provided.

Public water supply had significant changes and included updated county level population projections and information that was received from public utilities. Population estimates of Glades, Orange and Osceola Counties were the largest projection changes. The Kissimmee Basin population projections for the six-county areas were reviewed. It was estimated that there would be a new population growth on the order of 95% basin wide. The process of implementation of per capita projection methods was explained.

A summary of the water use in the Basin was given. Agriculture is the largest user today, but public water supply is expected to be the largest consumer of water by the year 2025. The largest percentage increase in a water use category is for power generation which will increase over 4000% as a result of a single identified new use near Lake Okeechobee. The use is expected to use surface water when required.

Mr. Sweazy explained the review process to obtain the information for the water supply plans. Prior to the next meeting a mailout will be done to all interested parties to verify the 2025 estimates.

Question and Answer Session:

What triggered Osceola County to use the higher population calculation with DCA? Mr. Sweazy explained that the County made a case to the DCA demonstrating that the county had met the BEBR high population estimates for the past several years. The DCA agreed that the February, 2004 BEBR high value could be used for the County's upcoming comprehensive plan amendments. Because of this the District was compelled to utilize the same BEBR values in their water supply planning process.

Demographics for “seasonal” populations were asked about and Mr. Sweazy said that “per capita” figures were used and that this was the manner in which seasonal residents were addressed.

Do the values in the presentation represent average or 1 in 10 use.

When will the mailout be sent? The mailout will be sent out in the next couple of weeks to all the utility representatives.




Pasture figures in the plan are not exactly correct, per a FDACS representative. Mr. Sweazy indicated that on a whole the District had found that allocations given for pasture irrigation were not being utilized on an annual basis and in particular in a 1-10 drought condition. The District has made an attempt to recognize where an agricultural operation is using water on an annual basis that that use is included in the plan. The FDACS representative requested that the District acknowledge that some properties do irrigate pasture and that the planning estimation of water may be different from the regulation estimated use. Mr. Sweazy noted the request and indicated he would address this in the demand appendice.

5. Initial Alternative Water Supply Projects (Fiscal Year 2006) by John Mulliken.

Mr. Mulliken presented information on funding for FY06 alternative water supply projects that had submitted for funding this year. Mr. Sweazy will provide information on the process of addressing local government alternative water supply projects for years 2007 – 2025.

The previous FY06 Grant Program has been superseded by the new law (SB444). The new law provides \$30 million in state funds for alternative water supply construction projects to be matched by the District. However, there is an updated definition of the term *Alternative Water Supply* and the legislation specifies specific sources of water that can be considered as alternatives. Information on the types of projects submitted for the Kissimmee Basin applications was provided.

The proposals and the types of projects that were submitted were reviewed. The project review process is:

-  Legislation required District to consider certain factors;
-  Project Review Team divided the factors among them;
-  Project review was completed in four days.

The process and schedule to date and up to October 12, 2005 was explained. A final set of recommendations to approve the applications and contracts will be presented at the WRAC Workshop on October 6, and presented to the Governing Board on October 12, 2005.

Alternative options such as Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells, reuse, reuse to wetlands, brackish water, and brackish water reverse osmosis was discussed as the supply sources under the new legislation. The facilities using brackish water were shown on a map of South Florida.

Question and Answer Session:

List mentioned on October 6 – will the list be available before that date for members of the public? Mr. Mulliken said it is unsure when the list would be available, but staff members will try to have it ready before the workshop.

Question asked regarding brackish water and Mr. Mulliken spoke on the types of supply sources that are identified in the legislation. Mr. Sweazy provided information sheets on the “Frequently Asked Questions and Answers”; “Criteria for Funding Projects under Senate Bill 444”, and “2005 Water Supply Funding Legislation Senate Bill 444”.

Where do you think you are heading on projects that straddle District lines? Mr. Mulliken said that is being worked on. The District is open-minded and will work as well as possible with other water management districts on this type projects. One stakeholder spoke on “double funding”. Mr. Mulliken and Mr. Sweazy indicated that this would hopefully be avoided through coordination with the other districts.

The amount of money for 2006 was asked about. Mr. Mulliken said that there was \$30 million for the state, plus two other pots of money, service center budget money in the Kissimmee area, that was available for projects and he explained the District is trying to get to the point where we will really make a difference. How the money will be distributed was explained by Mr. Mulliken and Mr. Sweazy.

Is there an evaluated process for looking at grants? Mr. Mulliken said there is a team set up to review this issues and specific criteria are followed in reviewing applications.

Getting on the list for the next 20 years – what is the process? That will be answered in the next presentation with Chris Sweazy.

6. Future Alternative Water Supply Projects (Fiscal Years 2007-2025) by Chris Sweazy.

Mr. Sweazy presented information on the water supply key requirements. It is expected that the State will establish funding in subsequent years of a minimum \$18 million to be matched by South Florida Water Management District, for a total of \$36 million. The District expects to go through an annual process similar to this year to solicit projects for funding cooperation.

The method of identifying future projects for FY2007-2025 and adding them to the list of District identified options was explained. Mr. Mulliken and Mr. Sweazy provided information on conservation of water and other options that might find their way into the

water supply plan. The method for submitting projects by local governments and other water suppliers identify will be made in the coming month and the reviewed for inclusion in the water supply plan shortly thereafter. The time frame for submittals is expected to be around October 31, 2005, but this is not a hard fast deadline. The information does need to be submitted as soon as possible. By December a presentation will be made to the Governing Board on the applications that have been submitted. The form will be available shortly and folks will be notified of its availability. Mr. Mulliken spoke on public water supply aspects and he said information on agricultural projects and any others were welcome.

Question and Answer Session:

Question was asked on the dates for the projects. Mr. Sweazy said the timeline is for any projects up to the year 2025. Mr. Mulliken provided additional information on the funding requirements for projects throughout the years was needed in order to get a handle on the potential projects that really need to be built. An amendment process was mentioned. Mr. Mulliken said the plan has to be updated every five years, and he provided information on the possibility of amendments from applicants to their projects might trigger additional updates. Mr. Sweazy anticipates a local workshop being held in prior to the submittal deadline to assisting in the packaging of potential projects. Mr. Mulliken reported on studies that have been done in the past and the focus of staff members to get the most cost-effective measures.

District identified options – what form does that take regarding alternative water and reclaimed water plans? Mr. Sweazy said good projects will be considered for funding and they should be as specific as possible in the forms to be prepared by the District. Mr. Mulliken said they do need to be very specific. Reuse expansion was discussed as a possible project.

7. Questions and Public Comment.

When the forms are sent out, will it list the SFWMD projects that are approved? Mr. Sweazy and Mr. Mulliken indicated that all projects submitted of the water supply plan will be considered, but this does not assure that all will be included.

The FDACS representative stated that there needs to be ways to assist agriculture in identifying projects as they do not do plan in five year cycles. Mr. Sweazy will meet with the FDACS representative person after the meeting to discuss to discuss options.

Mr. Sweazy pointed out that he would like to have another workshop before the Thanksgiving holiday and then have another one before the Christmas holiday. The SFWMD Service Centers will assist in helping people with the forms developed by the District to solicit project information. Mr. Mulliken said staff members will work with everyone to make this as easy and smooth process as possible.

8. Adjourn at 12:10 p.m.

Chris Sweazy
Kissimmee Basin Project Manager
Orlando Service Center
Water Resources Advisory Commission

Recorded By:

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Governing Board and Executive Services
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